UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

CICHARD W. NACLL CLERK OF CCURI

2015 NOV 19 PM 2: 44

U.S. DISTRICT COURT

DT FASHION LLC,

An Ohio limited-liability company 1156 Chambers Road

Columbus, Ohio 43212

Plaintiff,

VS.

SANTANA JADE CLINE

8243 Chippenham Drive Dublin, Ohio 43016

And

THE DARK MONKEY LLC

A Nevada limited-liability company 6170 W. Lake Mead Blvd., Box 46185 Las Vegas, Nevada 89108

Defendants.

2:15 C VASJ. DIV. COLUMBUS

Case No.

Judge

Judge Sargus

MAGISTRATE JUDGE DEAVERS

VERIFIED COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

Now comes the Plaintiff, DT Fashion LLC, through undersigned counsel, and for its complaint states as follows:

PARTIES

- Plaintiff DT Fashion LLC (hereinafter "Plaintiff" or "DT Fashion") is an Ohio limitedliability company with its principal place of business at 1156 Chamber Road, Columbus, Ohio 43212.
- Defendant Santana Jade Cline ("Defendant" or "Cline") is a natural person residing at 8243 Chippenham Drive, Dublin, Ohio 43017.

- Defendant The Dark Monkey LLC ("Dark Monkey") is a Nevada limited liability company. Its purported principal place of business is a UPS Store located at 6170 W. Lake Mead Blvd., Box #46185, Las Vegas, Nevada 89108.
- 4. Defendant Dark Monkey was incorporated on or about, October 30, 2015. To Plaintiff's knowledge, Dark Monkey does not operate any business.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 5. This claim is asserted and jurisdiction of the Court is invoked under 28 U.S.C. §§1338 and 1391.
- 6. This cause of action arises under and is based upon 15 U.S.C. §1051 et seq., for violation of the trademark laws of the United States.
- 7. Venue is proper in this judicial district under 28 U.S.C. §1391(b).

FACTS

- 8. Plaintiff DT Fashion designs, creates, promotes, markets and sells men's, women's and children's apparel focused on humor and satire inspired by topical subjects, pop culture, etc.
- On October 29, 2013, the United States Patent and Trademark Office ("<u>USPTO</u>") granted
 DT Fashion a federal registration for the phrase "Ya Filthy Animal," registration number
 4425118 (the "Mark"). See, Exhibit "A" Trademark Registration.
- 10. Plaintiff registration is valid and subsisting, and is unconcealed and unrevoked.
- 11. DT Fashion has built a brand around the Mark and among its most popularly selling products are t-shirts, sweatshirts and sweaters containing the phrase "Merry Christmas Ya Filthy Animal".

- 12. That Mark is used extensively in interstate commerce and is further licensed to other individuals and/or entities for use on their own merchandise.
- 13. Plaintiff promotes, markets, sells and distributes its merchandise primarily through a network of websites and specialty e-commerce marketplaces (ex: ETSY Inc., at www.etsy.com) as well as various social media outlets and its own proprietary website.
- 14. On October 30, 2015 defendant Cline applied for a trademark registration for the phrase "Merry Christmas Ya Filthy Animal". See, Exhibit "B" USPTO Registration Search.
- 15. Defendant Cline's October 30, 2015 application is in such an early stage of processing with the USPTO that a trademark examiner has yet to be assigned to the application. Accordingly, neither Defendant Cline nor Defendant Dark Monkey has a federally registered trademark for the phrase "Merry Christmas Ya Filthy Animal."
- 16. DT Fashion operates two stores on the popular ETSY website, respectively named "TeesToYou" and "YaFilthyAnimalStore".
- 17. Beginning November 9, 2015, Defendant Cline filed trademark infringement claims with ETSY for the phrase "Merry Christmas Ya Filthy Animal", causing the deactivation of fifty-two (52) of plaintiff's merchandise listings from the stores "TeesToYou" and "YaFilthyAnimalStore". (See, Exhibit "C" ETSY Trademark Deactivation)
- 18. On or about November 17, 2014, Defendant Cline filed for copyright protection under the title "Merry Christmas Ya Filthy Animal" for the design (the "Design") attached hereto as Exhibit "D".
- 19. The Design is an originaly, creative work and was created as part of a collaboration of several employees of DT Fashion.

20. Beginning on October 27, 2015 Defendants Cline and Monkey filed a DMCA copyright infringement claim with ETSY, claiming a copyright in the Design, causing the deactivation of six (6) merchandise listings from DT Fashion's two ETSY shops.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

- 21. On October 5, 2015, Defendant Cline filed in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court, District of Nevada, a voluntary petition under Chapter 11, captioned as *In re Santana Cline*, Case No. 2015-bk-15412.
- 22. This will be Defendant Cline's sixth (6) bankruptcy filing in the preceding five (5) years.
- 23. Defendant Cline's bankruptcy stay does not apply in this matter because the causes of action giving rise to this complaint occurred after she filed her voluntary petition.
- 24. Defendant Cline's bankruptcy stay does not apply in this matter because the within cause of action does not affect the property of the debtor's estate, as Plaintiff will show, she has no property interest in either the Plaintiff's Mark or the Design. Further, Plaintiff has not requested monetary damages.
- 25. Defendant Cline's bankruptcy stay protection does not protect the tortuous conduct committed by Defendant after her petition was filed.

COUNT ONE DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AS TO PLAINTIFFS TRADEMARK

- 26. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-incorporates the preceding paragraphs as if fully re-written herein.
- 27. Plaintiff DT Fashion is the owner of the "Ya Filthy Animal" trademark, and the owner of the goodwill of the business appertaining to the Mark.
- 28. Plaintiff's registration is valid and subsisting and is unconcealed and unrevoked.

- 29. Plaintiff's use of the trademark "Ya Filthy Animal" is lawful pursuant to its federally protected trademark rights.
- 30. Defendant Cline and Defendant Dark Monkey cannot claim a federally protected trademark right in the phrase "Merry Christmas Ya Filthy Animal" unless said copyright registration is approved by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and published upon the Principal Register.
- 31. Defendant Cline and Defendant Dark Monkey does not possess a superior right to DT Fashion, or its licensees, to use the Plaintiff's Mark.
- 32. Defendant Cline and Defendant Dark Monkey do not possess a superior right to DT Fashion, or its licensees, for use of the phrase "Merry Christmas Ya Filthy Animal".

COUNT TWO DECLARATORY JUDGMENT AS TO DEFENDANTS COPYRIGHT

- 33. Plaintiff re-alleges and re-incorporates the preceding paragraphs as if fully re-written herein.
- 34. On or about November 17, 2014, defendant Cline filed for copyright protection under the title "Merry Christmas Ya Filthy Animal" for the design (the "Design") attached hereto as Exhibit "D".
- 35. The Design was actually created as a collaboration of several employees and/or agents of DT Fashion.
- 36. Defendant Cline copyright application was made in bad faith and knowing the design was created by another.
- 37. Defendant Cline cannot claim a superior right to use the Design over Plaintiff, or any of Plaintiff's licensees.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff DT Fashion LLC, hereby requests this Court enter judgment as follows:

- Declaratory judgment that Plaintiff DT Fashion LLC's trademark registration for "Ya Filthy Animal", U.S.P.T.O Registration No. 4425118 is lawful and permits its use according to federal trademark law;
- Declaratory judgment that Defendant Santana Cline and Defendant The Dark Monkey
 LLC do not have an active trademark registration for the phrase "Merry Christmas Ya
 Filthy Animal";
- 3. Declaratory judgment that Defendants Cline and Dark Monkey do not have a superior right over Plaintiff DT Fashion or its licensees, to use the phrase "Merry Christmas Ya Filthy Animal", unless Defendants are granted a full trademark registration, and published on the official Register, by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.
- 4. Declaratory judgment that Plaintiff DT Fashion was the original author and creator of the Design registered by Defendant Santana Cline with the U.S. Copyright Office.
- 5. Declaratory judgment that Defendant Santana Cline does not have any rights to the use of the Design currently registered in her name.

Respectfully submitted

/s Pete Ezanidis

Peter Ezanidis (0079372)

Attorney for Plaintiff

5 E. Long St., Suite 601

Columbus, Ohio 43215

614-223-1100;

866.610.6306 (Fax)

pce@pce-law.com

Case: 2:15-cv-03020-EAS-EPD Doc #: 1 Filed: 11/19/15 Page: 7 of 20 PAGEID #: 7

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION

DI FASHION LLC	:
Plaintiff,	Case No.
VS.	Judge
SANTANA JADE CLINE, et al.	
Defendants.	€: :
<u>AFFIDAVI</u>	T FOR VERIFIED COMPLAINT
COUNTY OF FRANKLIN	
STATE OF OHIO)SS:)

Now come the affiant, ELLIOTT FISHER, being first duly cautioned and sworn, and hereby states as follows:

- I am the agent of Plaintiff DT Fashion LLC, and an adult competent to give sworn testimony.
- 2. I have personal knowledge of the facts contained below.
- 3. I have read and reviewed the Verified Complaint for Declaratory Judgment with respect to the above captioned matter, filed on behalf of DT Fashion, LLC.
- 4. That the facts contained therein are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NAUGHT.

Date

Affiant

Sworn to and subscribed before me on this the 13 day of November, 2015 by the above

named affiant.

Notary Public



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Trademarks > Trademark Electronic Search System (TESS)

TESS was last updated on Mon Nov 16 03:21:04 EST 2015

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Logout Please logout when you are done to release system resources allocated for you.

Start List At:

Jump

Record 5 out of 5

ASSIGN Status

TTAB Status

(Use the "Back" button of the Internet Browser to

return to TESS)

Ya Filthy Animal

Word Mark

YA FILTHY ANIMAL

Goods and Services IC 025. US 022 039. G & S: Hats; Sweaters; Sweatshirts; T-shirts. FIRST USE: 20120920.

FIRST USE IN COMMERCE: 20120920

Standard Characters

Claimed

Mark Drawing Code

(4) STANDARD CHARACTER MARK

Serial Number

85871704

Filing Date

March 8, 2013

Current Basis

1A

Original Filing Basis 1A

Published for

Opposition

August 13, 2013

Registration Number 4425118

Registration Date

October 29, 2013

Owner

(REGISTRANT) DT FASHION LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY OHIO 1799 W 5TH AVE UNIT

120 Columbus OHIO 43212

Type of Mark

TRADEMARK

Register

PRINCIPAL

Live/Dead Indicator

LIVE

STRUCTURED FREE FORM BROWSEDICT SEARCH OG

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PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT



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Trademarks > Trademark Electronic Search System (TESS)

TESS was last updated on Mon Nov 16 03:21:04 EST 2015

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Jump

Record 1 out of 5

ASSIGN Status (Use the "Back" button of the Internet Browser to return to TESS)

MERRY CHRISTMAS YA FILTHY ANIMÂL

Word Mark

MERRY CHRISTMAS YA FILTHY ANIMAL

Goods and Services

IC 040, US 100 103 106, G & S: Custom imprinting of clothing with decorative designs. FIRST

USE: 20101101. FIRST USE IN COMMERCE: 20101101

Standard Characters Claimed

Mark Drawing Code

(4) STANDARD CHARACTER MARK

Serial Number

86805363

Filing Date

October 30, 2015

Current Basis

1A

Original Filing

1A

Basis Owner

(APPLICANT) Cline, Santana Jade LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY NEVADA 6170 W. Lake

Mead Blvd #46185 Las Vegas NEVADA 89108

Type of Mark

SERVICE MARK

Register

PRINCIPAL

Live/Dead

Indicator

LIVE

TESS HOME NEW USER	STRUCTURED FREE FORM	BROWSE DIET SEARCH OG	TOP	HELP	PREV LIST	CURR LIST
MEXILIST FIRST DOC	PREV DOC NEXT DOC	Last Doc				

Fwd: Notice of Intellectual Property Infringement - pce@pce-law.com - The Law Office of Peter Ezanidis Esq., LLC Mail

From: Etsy Legal < legal@etsy.com > Date: Mon, Nov 9, 2015 at 5:20 PM

Subject: Notice of Intellectual Property Infringement

To: TeesToYouEtsy@gmail.com

Etsy

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT



Dear Tees ToYou.

Etsy received a notice of trademark infringement from Santana Cline / The Dark Monkey, LLC alleging that certain material on Etsy is not authorized. In accordance with our Intellectual Property Policy, Etsy deactivated the material specified as infringing -- 26 listing(s).

If you have questions about the notice, you may consider contacting Santana Cline (merrychristmastees@gmail.com), the authorized representative of Santana Cline / The Dark Monkey, LLC who provided Etsy with the notice, or talk to an attorney. Also, please reference the following help article for insight about how Etsy handles these types of notices and issues.

Do not re-activate the material unless you've resolved the issue with the notifying party and/or intellectual property owner. Repeat notices of infringement may result in the loss of account privileges.

Below is the information provided in the notice:

Santana Cline / The Dark Monkey, LLC Representative's Information

Name: Santana Cline

Company or organization: The Dark Monkey, LLC

Job title: Owner

Email: merrychristmastees@gmail.com

Santana Cline / The Dark Monkey, LLC Intellectual Property Intellectual Property: Merry Christmas Ya Filthy

Intellectual Property Right: trademark

Trademark registration number: 86805363

Fwd: Notice of Intellectual Property Infringement - pce@pce-law.com - The Law Office of Peter Ezanidis Esq., LLC Mail

Trademark jurisdiction: USTPO

Trademark information: Trademark Registration: pending

Trademark application classes: Goods and Services IC 040, US 100 103 106, G & S: Custom imprinting of clothing with decorative designs. FIRST USE: 20101101. FIRST

USE IN COMMERCE: 20101101

Legal basis for trademark: Word mark

Our lawsuit (including John Does) for copyright and trademark infringement is 2:15cv-02115-JCM-VCF Cline v. Etsy Inc et al

Trademark first year: 2010

Use of trademark: ECommerce - TheDarkMonkey - MerryChristmasMonkey

Type of infringing material: listing

Infringing material reported:

https://www.etsy.com/listing/175613706/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/250819175/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/166756626/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/171277452/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/166756116/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/168982457/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/166764799/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/170764709/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsv.com/listing/166766359/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/168004384/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/168981191/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/171277698/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/168004376/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/250800951/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/249030117/toddler-merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal https://www.etsy.com/listing/166756548/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/170748724/2t-3t-4t-merry-christmas-ya-filthy https://www.etsy.com/listing/168982249/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/166756534/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/171277690/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/168980795/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/170747942/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsv.com/listing/250906372/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/166766935/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny

Fwd: Notice of Intellectual Property Infringement - pce@pce-law.com - The Law Office of Peter Ezanidis Esq., LLC Mall https://www.etsy.com/listing/171317557/sm-5xl-merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal https://www.etsy.com/listing/166764749/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny

Thank you, Etsy Legal

This is a confidential matter, and Etsy requests that you not discuss this issue in the Etsy Forums or otherwise violate the confidential nature of this email. This communication is not legal advice or legal representation. For legal help, please consult an attorney.

You are receiving this email from Etsy, Inc. because you registered on Etsy.com with this email address.

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From: Etsy Legal < legal@etsy.com > Date: Mon, Nov 9, 2015 at 5:20 PM

Subject: Notice of Intellectual Property Infringement

To: YaFilthyAnimalStore@gmail.com

Etsy

Dear YaFilthyAnimal Store.

Etsy received a notice of trademark infringement from Santana Cline / The Dark Monkey, LLC alleging that certain material on Etsy is not authorized. In accordance with our <u>Intellectual Property Policy</u>, Etsy deactivated the material specified as infringing -- 26 listing(s).

If you have questions about the notice, you may consider contacting Santana Cline (merrychristmastees@gmail.com), the authorized representative of Santana Cline / The Dark Monkey, LLC who provided Etsy with the notice, or talk to an attorney. Also, please reference the following help article for insight about how Etsy handles these types of notices and issues.

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Company or organization: The Dark Monkey, LLC

Job title: Owner

Email: merrychristmastees@gmail.com

Santana Cline / The Dark Monkey, LLC Intellectual Property Intellectual Property: Merry Christmas Ya Filthy

Intellectual Property Right: trademark

Trademark registration number: 86805363

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Trademark jurisdiction: USTPO

Trademark information: Trademark Registration: pending

Trademark application classes: Goods and Services IC 040, US 100 103 106, G & S: Custom imprinting of clothing with decorative designs. FIRST USE: 20101101. FIRST

USE IN COMMERCE: 20101101 Legal basis for trademark: Word mark

Our lawsuit (including John Does) for copyright and trademark infringement is 2:15cv-02115-JCM-VCF Cline v. Etsy Inc et al

Trademark first year: 2010

Use of trademark: ECommerce - TheDarkMonkey - MerryChristmasMonkey

Type of infringing material: listing

Infringing material reported:

https://www.etsy.com/listing/250900300/babies-merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal https://www.etsy.com/listing/205485385/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/205446040/merry-christmas-va-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/250900462/babies-merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal https://www.etsy.com/listing/212152597/unisex-merry-christmas-va-filthy-animal https://www.etsy.com/listing/205574890/infants-merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal https://www.etsy.com/listing/205561896/babies-merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal https://www.etsy.com/listing/205446008/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/212151790/babies-merry-christmas-va-filthy-animal https://www.etsy.com/listing/205451016/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/212155115/infants-merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal https://www.etsy.com/listing/212649314/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/214196839/kids-sweatshirt-merry-christmas-ya https://www.etsy.com/listing/212145944/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/250899646/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/212654061/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/211010672/ladies-merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal https://www.etsy.com/listing/250794369/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/205469652/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/211019118/merry-christmas-va-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/211028655/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/250794853/babies-merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal https://www.etsy.com/listing/205484779/ladies-merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal https://www.etsy.com/listing/212155149/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny

Fwd: Notice of Intellectual Property Infringement - pce@pce-law.com - The Law Office of Peter Ezanidis Esq., LLC Mail https://www.etsy.com/listing/205456699/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/212654727/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-ugly

Thank you, Etsy Legal

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Subject: Notice of Intellectual Property Infringement

To: TeesToYouEtsy@gmail.com

Etsy

Dear TeesToYou,

Etsy received a notice of trademark infringement from Santana Cline alleging that certain material on Etsy is not authorized. In accordance with our Intellectual Property Policy, Etsy deactivated the material specified as infringing -- 2 listing(s).

If you have questions about the notice, you may consider contacting Santana Cline (merrychristmastees@gmail.com), the authorized representative of Santana Cline who provided Etsy with the notice, or talk to an attorney. Also, please reference the following help article for insight about how Etsy handles these types of notices and issues.

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Company or organization: The Dark Monkey, LLC

Job title: Owner

Email: merrychristmastees@gmail.com

Santana Cline Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property: Merry Christmas Ya Filthy Animal

Intellectual Property Right: trademark

Trademark registration number: 86805363

Trademark jurisdiction: USPTO

Fwd: Notice of Intellectual Property Infringement - pce@pce-law.com - The Law Office of Peter Ezanidis Esq., LLC Mail

Trademark information: Trademark Registration: pending

Trademark application classes: 040- Custom Imprinting of Goods

Legal basis for trademark: Imprinting Design Copyright and Trademark of Custom

Christmas Apparel Company

Trademark first year: 2010

Use of trademark: In Store and Online - Web stores

Type of infringing material: listing

Infringing material reported:

https://www.etsy.com/listing/166756528/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/168004384/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny

Thank you,

Etsy Lega!

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Company or organization: The Dark Monkey, LLC

Job title: Owner

Email: merrychristmastees@gmail.com

Santana Cline Intellectual Property

Intellectual Property: Merry Christmas Ya Filthy Animal

Intellectual Property Right: trademark

Trademark registration number: 86805363

Trademark jurisdiction. USPTO

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Trademark application classes: 040- Custom Imprinting of Goods

Legal basis for trademark: Imprinting Design Copyright and Trademark of Custom

Christmas Apparel Company

Trademark first year: 2010

Use of trademark: In Store and Online - Web stores

Type of infringing material: listing

Infringing material reported:

https://www.etsy.com/listing/205485385/merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal-funny https://www.etsy.com/listing/211010672/ladies-merry-christmas-ya-filthy-animal

Thank you,

Etsy Legal

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You are receiving this email from Etsy, Inc. because you registered on Etsy.com with this email address.

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Case 2:15-cv-02115-JCM-VCF Document 2 Filed 11/04/15 Page 16 of 21

PLAINTIFF'S EXHIBIT D



